

# SENATE BILL No. 469

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** Noncode.

**Synopsis:** Rural broadband. Urges the legislative council (council) to assign to the interim study committee on energy, utilities, and telecommunications (committee) the topic of the provision of affordable broadband services in underserved rural areas in Indiana. Provides that if the topic is assigned to the committee, the committee shall: (1) consider specific strategies recommended by the Rural Broadband Working Group convened by the lieutenant governor; and (2) issue a final report, including any recommendations for legislation, to the council not later than November 1, 2015.

**Effective:** July 1, 2015.

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January 14, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Commerce & Technology.

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First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 469

A BILL FOR AN ACT concerning utilities.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015] (a) As used in this  
2       SECTION, "legislative council" refers to the legislative council  
3       established by IC 2-5-1.1-1.

4       (b) As used in this SECTION, "committee" refers to the interim  
5       study committee on energy, utilities, and telecommunications  
6       established by IC 2-5-1.3-4(8).

7       (c) The legislative council is urged to assign to the committee  
8       during the 2015 legislative interim the topic of the provision of  
9       affordable broadband services in underserved rural areas in  
10      Indiana.

11      (d) If the topic described in subsection (c) is assigned to the  
12      committee, the committee shall consider, as part of its study,  
13      specific strategies to do the following to encourage the provision of  
14      affordable broadband services in underserved areas, as  
15      recommended by the Rural Broadband Working Group convened  
16      by the lieutenant governor:

17      (1) Streamline permitting, zoning, and approval processes



1 across county lines to facilitate the deployment of broadband  
2 infrastructure.

3 (2) Encourage broadband adoption by customers in rural  
4 areas to increase customer density and make rural areas more  
5 attractive to broadband developers.

6 (3) Use the statewide geographic information system (GIS) of  
7 available telecommunications and information technology  
8 services described in IC 5-28-33-3 to:

9 (A) identify underserved areas in which potential demand  
10 exists; and

11 (B) facilitate a request for proposal process among the  
12 identified communities and broadband developers and  
13 operators;

14 subject to any nondisclosure agreement that the Indiana  
15 economic development corporation has entered into under  
16 IC 5-28-33-4.

17 (4) Establish within underserved areas broadband access  
18 points or pods from which any willing broadband operator  
19 would be allowed to extend service by extending local service  
20 lines or deploying other last mile infrastructure or technology.

21 (5) Establish a rural broadband research center or institute at  
22 a state supported college or university in Indiana to serve as  
23 a single point of applied research, information collection, and  
24 technical assistance for rural communities in Indiana.

25 (e) If the topic described in subsection (c) is assigned to the  
26 committee, the committee shall issue a final report to the legislative  
27 council containing the committee's findings and recommendations,  
28 including any recommended legislation concerning the topic  
29 described in subsection (c) or the specific strategies described in  
30 subsection (d), in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 not later  
31 than November 1, 2015.

32 (f) This SECTION expires December 31, 2015.

